

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following sentence before the word “DESCRIPTION” on page 1, line 1 of the specification:

This application is the National Stage Entry of PCT/JP2003/016074, filed on December 16, 2003, and claims priority to JP 2002-371731, filed on December 24, 2002, and JP 2003-197750, filed on July 16, 2003.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, from lines 9-29 with the following amended paragraph:

Hydrogen can be supplied from the inlet of the fixed-bed reactor, namely the inlet of the dehydration catalyst, or, in addition thereto, from the inlet of the hydrogenation catalyst, and it is preferable to supply from only the inlet of the fixed-bed reactor in view of the activity of the dehydration catalyst and complication of equipments. That is, vaporization of water produced through dehydration is promoted by bringing into anytime existence of hydrogen in the dehydration zone and the equilibrium dehydration conversion rises, therefore, high conversion can be attained effectively compared to absence of water/hydrogen.